

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael Arcuri (D-Utica) joined a bipartisan group of over 100 representatives calling for restoration of the Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S) program. The C.O.P.S. program, which puts more police officers on the streets, has proven to reduce violent crime. Over 100 representatives signed a letter to Appropriations chairman David Obey (D-WI) and Ranking Member Jerry Lewis (R-CA) asking that C.O.P.S funding be added to the Continuing Resolution, to fund the C.O.P.S program for the 2007 budget.

“As a former District Attorney, I know from experience how important it is for our police officers to have the funding and resources they need. I saw time and again the results of increased police presence in reducing crime in a neighborhood or community,” said Arcuri. “I worked side by side with police officers throughout Upstate New York. Those officers knew they could count on me as DA, and now they know they can count on me in Congress to fight for initiatives like the C.O.P.S. program and make sure police officers have the assistance they need to keep our communities safe.”

Congress failed to fund the C.O.P.S program last year.

A copy of the letter sent to Appropriations Chairman David Obey and Ranking Member Jerry Lewis is attached below, along with a list of signatories.

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

We understand that the committee has been given the difficult task of readjusting the FY 2007 budget because the last Congress was unable to complete the appropriations process last year. As you consider programs that deserve additional resources, we hope you will find funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S) program in the forthcoming Continuing Resolution.

The FBI recently reported that crime is growing in the United States for the first time since the early 1990s. During the first six months of last year, homicides, assaults and other violent offenses grew by 4%, and robberies, which are often interpreted as a precursor to more serious crime, jumped by 10%.

To address the up tick in crime during the 1990s, Congress created the C.O.P.S. program, which succeeded in putting almost 120,000 more police on the beat. Former Attorney General John Ashcroft described C.O.P.S. as a "miraculous sort of success." And a GAO study released last year stated, "...we estimated that C.O.P.S.-funded increases in sworn officers per capita were associated with declines in the rates of total index crimes, violent crimes, and property crimes."

But after receiving more than \$1 billion each year in the late 1990s, funding for the C.O.P.S. program that has enabled local and state police agencies to hire additional officers has been eliminated entirely.

C.O.P.S enjoys the support of all the nation's major law enforcement organizations and was reauthorized as part of the Department of Justice Reauthorization bill that President Bush signed into law last January. And the program has helped communities large and small across the nation and has strong, bipartisan support.

We hope you will do everything possible to ensure that this program receives additional funding in the Continuing Resolution.

Anthony D. Weiner (D - NY)
Ric Keller (R - FL)
Michael A. Arcuri (D - NY)
Thomas H. Allen (D - ME)
Joe Baca (D - CA)
Tammy Baldwin (D - WI)

Shelley Berkley (D - NV)
Howard L. Berman (D – CA)
Timothy H. Bishop (D - NY)
Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D - GU)
Leonard L. Boswell (D - IA)
Robert A. Brady (D - PA)
Michael E. Capuano (D - MA)
Julia Carson (D - IN)
Michael N. Castle (R - DE)
Donna M. Christensen (D - VI)
Yvette D. Clarke (D – NY)
Emanuel Cleaver (D - MO)
Steve Cohen (D - TN)
John Conyers, Jr. (D - MI)
Joseph Crowley (D - NY)
Artur Davis (D - AL)
Susan A. Davis (D - CA)
Diana DeGette (D - CO)
William D. Delahunt (D - MA)
John D. Dingell (D - MI)
Michael F. Doyle (D - PA)
Keith Ellison (D - MN)
Brad Ellsworth (D - IN)
Eliot L. Engel (D - NY)
Bob Etheridge (D - NC)
Chaka Fattah (D - PA)
Barney Frank (D - MA)
Gene Green (D - TX)
Raul M. Grijalva (D - AZ)
John J. Hall (D - NY)
Phil Hare (D - IL)
Jane Harman (D - CA)
Brian Higgins (D - NY)
Mazie Hirono (D - HI)
Rush D. Holt (D - NJ)
Tim Holden (D - PA)
Darlene Hooley (D - OR)
Sheila Jackson-Lee (D - TX)
Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr. (D - GA)
Dale E. Kildee (D - MI)
Ron Kind (D – WI)
Dennis J. Kucinich (D - OH)
Nick Lampson (D - TX)
Tom Lantos (D - CA)
Rick Larsen (D - WA)
Frank A. LoBiondo (R - NJ)

Carolyn McCarthy (D - NY)
James P. McGovern (D - MA)
John M. McHugh (R - NY)
Mike McIntyre (D - NC)
Michael R. McNulty (D - NY)
Carolyn B. Maloney (D - NY)
Edward J. Markey (D - MA)
Jim Matheson (D - UT)
Doris O. Matsui (D - CA)
Martin T. Meehan (D - MA)
Gregory W. Meeks (D - NY)
Dennis Moore (D - KS)
Christopher S. Murphy (D – CT)
Jerrold Nadler (D - NY)
Grace F. Napolitano (D - CA)
James L. Oberstar (D - MN)
Solomon P. Ortiz (D - TX)
Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D - NJ)
Donald M. Payne (D - NJ)
Ed Perlmutter (D - CO)
Todd Russell Platts (R - PA)
Ted Poe (R - TX)
Jon C. Porter (R - NV)
Jim Ramstad (R - MN)
David G. Reichert (R - WA)
Mike Ross (D – AR)
Bobby L. Rush (D - IL)
Linda T. Sánchez (D - CA)
Loretta Sanchez (D - CA)
Janice D. Schakowsky (D – IL)
Allyson Y. Schwartz (D - PA)
Christopher Shays (R - CT)
Albio Sires (D - NJ)
Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D - NY)
Christopher H. Smith (R - NJ)
Vic Snyder (D - AR)
Hilda L. Solis (D - CA)
Bart Stupak (D - MI)
Betty Sutton (D – OH)
Ellen O. Tauscher (D - CA)
John F. Tierney (D - MA)
Edolphus Towns (D - NY)
Chris Van Hollen (D - MD)
Diane E. Watson (D - CA)
Jerry Weller (R - IL)
Robert Wexler (D - FL)

Charles A. Wilson (D - OH)
Lynn C. Woolsey (D - CA)
David Wu (D - OR)

###